

Department of Licensing Motorcycle Safety Advisory Board



Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2013
Department of Licensing Black Lake Building 2
405 Black Lake Boulevard, 2nd Floor
Olympia, WA 98502
7:00 pm

1. Call to order:
 - 7:03 pm
2. Introduction of Board Members and Department of Licensing Staff:
 - All members were in attendance – Carl Spurgeon, Mike Turcott, David Anderson, David Weed, and Larry Walker.
 - Department of Licensing (DOL) staff included: Julie Knittle, Josh Johnston, Hector Rodriguez, Andrea Nygard, Tom Fite, Kyle McCarty, Paulette Miller, and Lena Moore.
3. Review and approval of the minutes from the last meeting:
 - Approved
4. Target Zero plan presentation:
 - Mark Medalen from the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) presented a slide show about Target Zero strategies and goals and a presentation about Target Zero developed for Governor Gregoire's Legacy Notebook. (see attachment)
 - Bruce Chunn from Department of Licensing presented a slideshow with various motorcycle data including, but not limited, to predicable factors related to fatalities such as weather conditions, training and rider experience, endorsement status, age of the rider, type of bike, and other general information. (see attachment)
 - He was asked by David Wendell from Pacific Northwest Motorcycle Safety how the dry days were captured. Bruce explained the data from weather recorded at SeaTac Airport was used in the report. No data was captured from Eastern Washington but he would look into that for possible use in the future.
 - Questions were asked regarding Law Enforcement Collision report data and if the officer could be more defined in his/her narrative to show more of the causation factors of accidents.
 - Larry Walker asked about peeling back the data to reveal endorsement holders vs. motorcycle ownership. Bruce explained the DOL is limited to the information we can extrapolate due to programming differences

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between the Drivers and Vehicle sections.

- David Weed asked if the schools received this data and was told "no".
- Julie Knittle explained that the motorcycle safety program website will show more data as the program becomes more data driven.
- Mike Turcott shared that 60% of new endorsements are showing that the licensee took and completed a safety training course. This is amazing!

5. Communication and Outreach Plan updates:

- Tom Fite presented slides showing some of the 2013 communication and outreach projects for the program including:
 - two postcards that are in the process of being mailed. One postcard will be mailed out to individuals who have motorcycles registered in their name, but do not have a motorcycle endorsement on their license. The other postcard will be mailed out to individuals who have a motorcycle endorsement, but got their endorsement by taking the knowledge and skills test instead of taking a training course. Both postcards encourage riders to participate in a motorcycle training course.
 - two motorcycle safety and awareness signs that have been placed in two rest areas in Thurston County along I-5 (Maytown and Scattercreek). The signs will need little or no maintenance and should last at least 10-15 years with an approximate per day cost of \$.38. Three million people a year could see these signs.
 - Variable messaging signs are planned to be used during larger motorcycle events in upcoming months.
 - (see attachment)
 - Rachel Oxrieder from Spokane MotorSchool asked for the price of the postcards which was less than \$25,000, then said she believes the safety awareness signs are more effective than postcards. Julie explained the postcards made a difference last time DOL mailed them and Hector added DOL's position is that not one thing works for everyone and we (DOL) will utilize as many outreach tactics as we can.
 - Contractors want the safety awareness signs. They were told that the information regarding the design of the signs is available if they want it.
 - David Weed clarified that motorcycle riders kill themselves more often than other vehicles do so he is happy to the focus on both motorist awareness and motorcycle rider safety.
 - Josh explained that DOL is working on a RFQ for a proposed billboard campaign and Julie stated the Communication and Outreach Plan will be put on the web.

6. Two and Three Wheel Skills Test changes:

- Kyle shared the information regarding the pilot test that DOL and Motorcycle

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Safety Foundation (MSF) ran together last year at the national level to raise standards. It appears that the testing is working well and DOL has got a lot of feedback from law enforcement, testers, and contractors. Though it is not perfect, it is better than what we currently have. Curves, lane placement, and speed are the top three causes of crashes in our state.

- On July 1st DOL will launch the new skills test standards. The test policy and instructions will be posted on www.Endorseyoursport.com next week and new testing sheets will go out to contractors as well. This is a huge move for third party testing and expects to see a higher fail rate with those taking a skills test. This is not a National Standard; instead it is our goal to make Washington safer. He was asked what MSF thought about the test and Kyle explained that some within MSF like it and some feel it goes against their model.
 - David Wendell asked Kyle to take a look at AAMVA's new three wheel manual and Kyle said he has. He let him and others know DOL is considering a new two and three wheel combination manual.

7. Program Updates:

- Hector updated four program items:
 - 1) The 2013 Instructor Preparation Course (IP) graduated 18 new MSF certified instructors. Those 18 are working on becoming Washington State Motorcycle Program (WMSP) certified. We will continue to improve, have better planning, and plan out the scheduling of more IPs.
 - 2) DOL was approved for a 2014 Grant through WTSC for approximately \$155,000. DOL will use the Grant funds for outreach to try and reach out to as many people as we can while monitoring the funds and staying within the grant guidelines.
 - 3) The agency and program budget has already been established. He expressed that we understand there were problems with communication regarding it; but will continue to focus on improving communications.
 - 4) The motorcycle safety training and testing contracts are being amended to extend them for up to an additional year. Management will continue to look at the stats and data available for these contracts. 6329 two wheel students were trained this time last year and 6959 students have been trained this year to date. 140 three wheel students were trained this time last year and 169 have been trained this year to date. He is amazed at what contractors are accomplishing.

8. Outgoing Board Member Appreciation:

- Julie and Josh thanked the three outgoing Board Members for their service and everything they've done up to this point. Larry, Carl, and Mike were given a certificate and letter of thanks from the Director.

9. Public Forum:

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- David Wendell asked if the board meetings were going to continue to be held on Thursdays. Julie responded by saying it is something that is being looked at but most likely will be held during regular business hours. She explained there are a lot of Boards and Commissions within DOL with a standard operating procedures and has asked Hector to put more formality in place with our board. She plans to have the entire year's meetings, with locations, posted on the web as soon as they are scheduled and they will likely reflect a shift to meeting during regular business hours. There is a need for more regular and consistent communication going out to a wider audience and she is looking at the great communication plans used within other sections of DOL.
- Dave Wendell also asked if there were plans for a Contractor and Chief Meeting. Julie let him know that they are planning a Contractor's Meeting. Hector let the contractors know that a meeting is being planned for about a month to a month and a half from now, but could be further out. Concerns were expressed about this being a busy time for training and that it may be beneficial to have the meeting after the busy season. Josh agreed with this concern and reminded everyone that this is a DOL meeting that we can work to adjust the timing of to allow for the best timing for DOL and the contractors.
- Tom Hadley (instructor) asked why background checks are being required for instructors and why he (and other instructors) have to teach about how old a child must be to ride on a motorcycle when it is not in the book he teaches out of. Kyle responded to both questions letting him know that since the RFP 3913 has been cancelled then there is no requirement at this time for a background check and the reason it was originally put as a requirement in the RFP was because there is already a standard for all Driver Training Instructors to have a background check as they work one on one with students and since WMSP Certified Instructors also work one on one then we should be held to those standards as well. As for the minor child on the back of a bike, he explained that it is a Washington State Law that per the curriculum should be addressed along with vehicle equipment requirements. All of this information is included in the motorcycle operator manual.

10. Comments from the Board:

- Carl asked why there was only one IP held this year and wanted to know if more were planned. Kyle answered letting the Board know that there are only two candidate applications right now and it is a huge expense to run a single or dual IP like the one that was held this year. If we (DOL) get a candidate need then we will reevaluate and could adapt to hold another IP. Carl likes what the agency is doing with the new test.
- David Anderson thanked the outgoing board members for their service to the agency and other members. He would like to see the safety awareness signs placed in all rest areas in Washington State. He asked what it would take to get this done and was told it would take resources and funds. David believes

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an option for contractors to use the signs would have a huge impact on riders in the state.

- David Weed first apologized for his lateness. He thanked the outgoing members and reminded the people in the room that riders are killing themselves and we will save lives if we education the riders.
- Mike agreed with David (Weed) and feels that the Target Zero is great. He thanked not only the outgoing members but DOL management. He has not seen management presence like this before. He was glad Mark hit on bold new steps being brought forward like the changes to the seatbelt law, Implied Consent law, and lowering the BAC. Feedback from Target Zero could lead to possible legislative changes.
- Larry has watched a lot of change over time, but we always move forward. Excitement happening!

11. Adjourn:

- 9:01 pm